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The  
**American Heritage  
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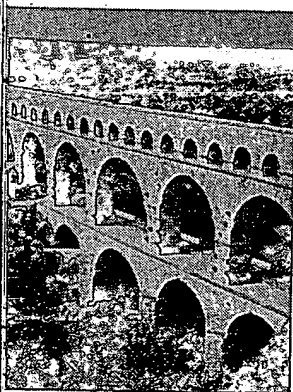
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vetch



viaduct

Part of a 1st-century  
B.C. Roman aqueduct in  
Nîmes, France



vibraphone



viburnum

the genus *Vicia*, having pinnate leaves and small, usually purplish flowers. [ME *fecche* < OFr. *veche* < Lat. *vicia*.]

**vetch-ling** (vetch'ling) *n.* Any of several plants of the genus *Lathyrus*, having pinnate leaves, slender tendrils, and small, variously colored flowers.

**vet-er-an** (vêt'ər-ən, vêt'ər-ən) *n.* 1. One who has a long record of service in a given activity or capacity. 2. One who has been a member of the armed forces. —**modifier:** a veteran actor; veteran benefits. [Fr. *vétérane* < Lat. *veteranus* < *vetus*, old.]

**Veterans Day** *n.* November 11, a holiday celebrated in memory of the armistice ending World War I in 1918 and in honor of veterans of the armed services.

**vet-er-i-nar-i-an** (vêt'ər-ə-nâr-ē-ən, vêt'ər-ə-) *n.* A person trained and authorized to treat animals medically.

**vet-er-i-nar-y** (vêt'ər-ə-nâr-ē, vêt'ər-ə-) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or being the science of the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of animals, esp. domestic animals. —*n.*, *pl.* -ies. A veterinarian. [Lat. *veterinarius*, pertaining to beasts of burden < *veterinus* < *veterinae*, beasts of burden.]

**veterinary medicine** *n.* The medical science of the diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases and injuries.

**veterinary surgeon** *n.* A veterinarian.

**veti-ver** (vêt'ə-vər) *n.* 1. A grass, *Vetiveria zizanioides*, of tropical Asia, cultivated for its aromatic roots that yield an oil used in perfumery. 2. The roots of the vetiver. [Fr. < Tamil *vetiveru*.]

**veti-vert** (vêt'ə-vûrt') *n.* The essential oil of the vetiver. [Alteration of *VETIVER*.]

**ve-to** (vêt'ə) *n.*, *pl.* -toes. 1. a. The vested power or constitutional right of one branch or department of government, esp. the right of a chief executive, to reject a bill passed by a legislative body and thus prevent or delay its enactment into law. b. The exercise of this right. c. The official document communicating the rejection and the reasons for it. 2. An authoritative prohibition or rejection of a proposed or intended act. —*tr.v.* -toed, -to-ing, -toes. 1. To prevent (a legislative bill) from becoming law by exercising the power of veto. 2. To forbid or prevent authoritatively; prohibit. [Lat., I forbid.] —**ve-to-er** *n.*

**vex** (vêks) *tr.v.* vexed, vex-ing, vex-es. 1. a. To irritate or annoy; bother: *vexed by his daughter's constant talking.* b. To bring physical discomfort to: *His sprained ankle vexed him all night.* 2. To baffle; puzzle. 3. To talk about or debate at length: *a vexed question.* 4. To toss about or shake up. [ME *vexen* < OFr. *vexer* < Lat. *vexare*.] —**vex-ed-ly** (vêk'sid-lē) *adv.* —**vex'er** *n.* —**vex-ing-ly** *adv.*

**vex-a-tion** (vêk-să-shən) *n.* 1. The act of vexing. 2. The state or condition of being vexed; annoyance. 3. A source of irritation or annoyance.

**vex-a-tious** (vêk-să-shəs) *adj.* 1. Causing or creating vexation; annoying. 2. Full of vexation; annoyed. 3. Intended to vex or annoy. —**vex-a-tiously** *adv.* —**vex-a-tious-ness** *n.*

**vex-il-la** (vêk-sil'ə) *n.* Plural of  *vexillum*.

**vex-il-lar-y** (vêk-sə-lăr-ē) *n.*, *pl.* -ies. 1. A member of the oldest class of army veterans who served under a special standard in ancient Rome. 2. A standard-bearer. [Lat. *vexillarius* < *vexillum*, flag, dim. of *velum*, a covering.]

**vex-il-late** (vêk-sə-lăt, -lăt) *adj.* Having a vexillum.

**vex-il-lum** (vêk-sil'əm) *n.*, *pl.* -il-la (-sil'ə). 1. Bot. A usually enlarged upper petal of certain flowers; standard. 2. Zool. The weblike part of a feather; vane. [Lat., flag, dim. of *velum*, a covering.]

**V format** *n.* Computer Sci. A method of presenting data-processor output in such a way as to begin each record with an indication of its length.

**via** (vī'ə, vē'ə) *prep.* 1. By way of: *went to Pittsburgh via Philadelphia.* 2. By means of: *sent the letter via airmail.* [Lat., ablative of *via*, road.]

**via-ble** (vī'ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Capable of living, as a newborn infant or fetus reaching a stage of development that will permit it to survive and develop under normal conditions. 2. Capable of living, developing, or germinating under favorable conditions. 3. Capable of success or continuing effectiveness; practicable: *a viable national economy.* [Fr. < OFr. < *vie*, life < Lat. *vita*.] —**vī'a-bil'i-ty** *n.* —**vī'a-bly** *adv.*

**Vi-a Do-lo-ro-sa** (vī'ə dō'lə-rō'sə, vē'ə) *n.* 1. Jesus' route from Pilate's judgment hall to Golgotha. 2. A difficult course or experience. [Lat., road of sorrow.]

**vi-a-duct** (vī'ə-dûkt') *n.* A series of spans or arches used to carry a road or railroad over a wide valley or over other roads or railroads. [Lat. *via*, road + (AQUA)DUCT.]

**vi-al** (vī'əl) *n.* A small container, usually with a closure, used esp. for liquids. —*tr.v.* -aled, -al-ing, -als or -alled, -al-ling, -als. To put or keep in or as if in a vial. [ME *virole*, var. of *fiol*. —see *PHIAL*.]

**vi-a-me-di-a** (vī'ə mē'dē-ə, mē'dē-ə, mādē-ə, vē'ə) *n.* A middle course or way. [Lat.]

**vi-and** (vī'ənd) *n.* 1. a. An article of food. b. A very choice or delicious dish. 2. viands. Provisions; victuals. [ME *viande* < OFr. *viande* < VLat. *\*vivanda*, var. of Lat. *vivenda*, neuter pl. gerund. of *vivere*, to live.]

**vi-at-ic** (vī'ăt'ik) also **vi-at-i-cal** (-i-kəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to traveling, a road, or a way. [Lat. *viaticus* < *via*, road.]

**vi-at-i-cum** (vī'ăt'ik-əm, vē-) *n.*, *pl.* -ca (-kə) or -cums. 1. Ec-

cles of death. 2. Supplies for a journey. [Lat., traveling provisions < *viaticus*, viatic.]

**vibes** (vībz) *pl. n.* 1. Informal. A vibraphone. 2. Slang. A distinctive emotional reaction; vibrations. [Shortened, var. of VIBRAPHONE.]

**vi-brac-u-lum** (vī-brāk'yo-ləm) *n.*, *pl.* -la (-lə). One of the long, whiplike filaments on the surface of certain bryozoan colonies. [NLat. < Lat. *vibrare*, to shake.] —**vi-brac'u-lar** *adj.* —**vi-brac'u-loid** *adj.*

**vi-bra-harp** (vī-brə-hărp') *n.* A vibraphone.

**vi-brant** (vī-brănt) *adj.* 1. Exhibiting, characterized by, or resulting from vibration; vibrating. 2. Pulsing or throbbing with energy or activity; a vibrant personality. —**vi-brant-ly** *adv.*

**vi-bra-phon** (vī-brə-fôn') *n.* A musical instrument similar to a marimba but having metal bars and rotating disks in the resonators to produce a vibrato. [VIBRA(TE) + -PHONE.] —**vi-bra-phon-ist** *n.*

**vi-brate** (vī-brăt') *v.* -brat-ed, -brat-ing, -brates. —*intr.* 1. To move back and forth rapidly. 2. To produce a sound, esp. a tone. 3. To be moved emotionally; thrill: *vibrate with excitement.* 4. To fluctuate or waver in making choices; vacillate. —*tr.* 1. To cause to tremble or quiver. 2. To cause to move back and forth rapidly. 3. To produce (sound) by vibration. [Lat. *vibrare*, vibrat-.]

**vi-bra-tile** (vī-bră-tīl, -tīl') *adj.* 1. Characterized by vibration. 2. Capable of or adapted to vibratory motion. [Fr. < Lat. *vibrare*, to vibrate.] —**vi-bra-til'i-ty** (-tīl'it-ē) *n.*

**vi-bra-tion** (vī-bră-shən) *n.* 1. The act of vibrating. 2. The condition of being vibrated. 3. Physics. a. A rapid linear motion of a particle or of an elastic solid about an equilibrium position. b. A periodic process. 4. A single complete vibrating motion; quiver. 5. vibrations. Slang. A distinctive emotional aura or atmosphere capable of being instinctively sensed or experienced; vibes. —**vi-bra-tion-al** *adj.*

**vi-bra-tive** (vī-bră-tiv) *adj.* Vibratory.

**vi-bra-to** (vī-bră-tō, vē-) *n.*, *pl.* -tos. Mus. A tremulous or pulsating effect produced in an instrumental or vocal tone by barely perceptible minute and rapid variations in pitch. [Ital. < Lat. *vibratus*, p. part. of *vibrare*, to vibrate.]

**vi-bra-tor** (vī-bră-tər) *n.* 1. Something that vibrates, esp. an electrically operated device used for massage. 3. An electrical device consisting basically of a vibrating conductor interrupting a current.

**vi-bra-to-ry** (vī-bră-tōr-ē, -tōr-ē) *adj.* 1. Of, characterized by, or consisting of vibration. 2. Causing vibration. 3. Vibrating or capable of vibration.

**vib-ri-o** (vībrē-ō) *n.*, *pl.* -os. Any of various S-shaped or comma-shaped microorganisms of the genus *Vibrio*, esp. *V. comma*, which causes cholera. [NLat. *Vibrio*, genus name; *vibrare*, to vibrate (from their vibratory motion).] —**vib-ri-oid** (-oid') *adj.*

**vib-ri-o-sis** (vībrē-ō'sis) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-sēz) A disease caused by vibrios.

**vi-bris-sa** (vī-bris'ə, vā-) *n.*, *pl.* -bris-sae (-bris'ē). A stiff hair or hairlike projection, as a nostril hair, one of the whiskers of a cat, or one of the modified feathers near the beak of an insectivorous bird. [Lat. *vibrissae* (pl.) < *vibrare*, to vibrate.]

**vi-bron-ic** (vī-brōn'ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to changes in molecular energy states resulting from vibrational energy. [VIBR(ATION) + (ELECTR)ONIC.]

**vi-burn-um** (vī-bûr'nəm) *n.* Any of various shrubs or trees of the genus *Viburnum*, characteristically having clusters of small white flowers and berrylike red or black fruit. [NLat. *Viburnum*, genus name < Lat. *viburnum*, the wayfaring tree.]

**vic-ar** (vik'ər) *n.* 1. In the Church of England, the priest of a parish who receives a stipend or salary but does not receive the tithes of a parish. 2. In the Episcopal Church of the United States, a clergyman in charge of a chapel. 3. In the Anglican Communion generally, a clergyman acting in the place of a rector or bishop. 4. Rom. Cath. Ch. A clergyman who acts for or represents another, often higher-ranking member of the clergy. [ME < OFr. *vicair* < Lat. *vicarius*, substitute < *vicarius*, vicarious < *vicis*, change.]

**vic-a-ry** (vik'ər-i) *n.* 1. The residence of a vicar. 2. The benefice of a vicar. 3. The duties or office of a vicar. —**vic-ar-i-ous** (vik'ər-i-əs) *adj.*

**vic-ar apostolic** *n.*, *pl.* vicars apostolic. Rom. Cath. Ch. A titular bishop who administers a region that is not yet a diocese as a representative of the Holy See. 2. A titular bishop appointed to administer to a vacant see in which the succession of bishops has been interrupted. 3. A bishop or archbishop formerly delegated by the pope to act in his stead in a particular region.

**vic-ar-ate** (vik'ər-it, -ə-răt') *n.* A vicariate.

**vic-ar-ane** (fō-răn', fō-) *n.*, *pl.* vicars forane. Rom. Cath. Ch. A priest who by a bishop's appointment exercises limited jurisdiction over the clergy in a district of a diocese. [Med. Lat. *foranus*, foreign < Lat. *foras*, outside.]

**vic-ar general** *n.*, *pl.* vicars general. 1. Rom. Cath. Ch. A priest acting as deputy to a bishop to assist him in the administration of his diocese. b. The head of a religious order. 2. An ecclesiastical official in the Church of England, usually a layman, who assists an archbishop or bishop in administrative and judicial duties.

**vi-car-i-al** (vī-kăr'ē-əl, -kăr', -vi-) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to a

â pat / â pay / âr care / â father / b bib / ch church / d deed / ê pet / ê be / f fife / g gag / h hat / hw which / î pit / î pie / îr pier / j judge / k kick / l lid; needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ô pot / ô toe / ô paw, for / oi poise / ou out / ôo took / ôo boot

vicary: 2. Acting in the place of a bishop. 3. Acting in the place of a rector. 4. Acting in the place of a vicar. 5. Acting in the place of a vicar. 6. Acting in the place of a vicar. 7. Acting in the place of a vicar. 8. Acting in the place of a vicar. 9. Acting in the place of a vicar. 10. Acting in the place of a vicar. 11. Acting in the place of a vicar. 12. Acting in the place of a vicar. 13. Acting in the place of a vicar. 14. Acting in the place of a vicar. 15. Acting in the place of a vicar. 16. Acting in the place of a vicar. 17. Acting in the place of a vicar. 18. Acting in the place of a vicar. 19. Acting in the place of a vicar. 20. Acting in the place of a vicar. 21. Acting in the place of a vicar. 22. Acting in the place of a vicar. 23. Acting in the place of a vicar. 24. Acting in the place of a vicar. 25. Acting in the place of a vicar. 26. Acting in the place of a vicar. 27. Acting in the place of a vicar. 28. Acting in the place of a vicar. 29. Acting in the place of a vicar. 30. Acting in the place of a vicar. 31. Acting in the place of a vicar. 32. Acting in the place of a vicar. 33. Acting in the place of a vicar. 34. Acting in the place of a vicar. 35. Acting in the place of a vicar. 36. Acting in the place of a vicar. 37. Acting in the place of a vicar. 38. Acting in the place of a vicar. 39. Acting in the place of a vicar. 40. Acting in the place of a vicar. 41. Acting in the place of a vicar. 42. Acting in the place of a vicar. 43. Acting in the place of a vicar. 44. Acting in the place of a vicar. 45. Acting in the place of a vicar. 46. Acting in the place of a vicar. 47. Acting in the place of a vicar. 48. Acting in the place of a vicar. 49. Acting in the place of a vicar. 50. Acting in the place of a vicar. 51. Acting in the place of a vicar. 52. Acting in the place of a vicar. 53. Acting in the place of a vicar. 54. Acting in the place of a vicar. 55. Acting in the place of a vicar. 56. Acting in the place of a vicar. 57. Acting in the place of a vicar. 58. Acting in the place of a vicar. 59. Acting in the place of a vicar. 60. Acting in the place of a vicar. 61. Acting in the place of a vicar. 62. Acting in the place of a vicar. 63. Acting in the place of a vicar. 64. Acting in the place of a vicar. 65. Acting in the place of a vicar. 66. Acting in the place of a vicar. 67. Acting in the place of a vicar. 68. Acting in the place of a vicar. 69. Acting in the place of a vicar. 70. Acting in the place of a vicar. 71. Acting in the place of a vicar. 72. Acting in the place of a vicar. 73. Acting in the place of a vicar. 74. Acting in the place of a vicar. 75. Acting in the place of a vicar. 76. Acting in the place of a vicar. 77. Acting in the place of a vicar. 78. Acting in the place of a vicar. 79. Acting in the place of a vicar. 80. Acting in the place of a vicar. 81. Acting in the place of a vicar. 82. Acting in the place of a vicar. 83. Acting in the place of a vicar. 84. Acting in the place of a vicar. 85. Acting in the place of a vicar. 86. Acting in the place of a vicar. 87. Acting in the place of a vicar. 88. Acting in the place of a vicar. 89. Acting in the place of a vicar. 90. Acting in the place of a vicar. 91. Acting in the place of a vicar. 92. Acting in the place of a vicar. 93. Acting in the place of a vicar. 94. Acting in the place of a vicar. 95. Acting in the place of a vicar. 96. Acting in the place of a vicar. 97. Acting in the place of a vicar. 98. Acting in the place of a vicar. 99. Acting in the place of a vicar. 100. Acting in the place of a vicar.

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